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R U R A L S A N I T A R Y D I S T R I C T .

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

by

M. J. QUIRKE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

with

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

by

H. E. FIRTH, Cert. Royal San. Ins.

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U P T O N - O N - S E V E R N
R U R A L S A N I T A R Y D I S T R I C T.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In compliance with Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health, dated 19th July 1940, I beg to submit a short interim report for the year 1939.

As regards statistics, since the Registrar-General's figures are not yet available these cannot be given completely. Such information as I have is embodied in Tables I, III and IV at the end of this report.

In the absence of an estimate of the mid-year resident population the birth and death - rates cannot be given.

Social Conditions.

The only change worth noting was a direct result of the out-break of war.

Over 300 evacuated persons, mainly children arrived in the District and were chiefly accommodated in private houses.

Thus the house-owner, or occupier lost his right to select the members of his own household, other than his own kin. Inevitable as a war measure, such a step, were it made permanent, would tend to disrupt family life and would accelerate the fall in the birth-rate, which has been going on during about the last 30 years.

The Billeting Officer and others had an arduous and difficult time but these activities do not belong to my department and a full account of the matter would, I believe, entail a very lengthy report.

No noticeable effect on the state of the Public Health resulted. The personnel of the Public Health Services under the Council remained un-altered.

Water.

I received the results of the chemical and bacteriological examinations of 68 samples of water.

Of these 32 were condemned by the County Analyst and a few others were labelled "doubtful".

In many cases the wells are badly placed and imperfectly protected.

The typing of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group is in my opinion most useful, as this group appears in waters where animal contamination would seem to be impossible.

A sample from the only swimming pool open to the Public in the District was satisfactory.

The question of obtaining a domestic supply from rain-water at Bushley was discussed at the Ministry of Health. It was concluded that persons un-accustomed to the use of rain-water would prefer to drink from the wells they had always been in the habit of using.

Infectious Diseases.

In spite of the inclusion of three cases of Whooping Cough (not previously notifiable) the total number notified is one less than in 1938.

Diphtheria Immunization.

Early in December a small outbreak of Diphtheria started at Powick.

It was of a severe type and two children died. As a result of this there arose a demand for immunization and it became obvious that parents' consent would be more easily obtainable than would be the case when the disease was not manifest.

Through the courtesy of Dr. H. P. Newsholme, Medical Officer of Health of Birmingham, I had previously obtained full details of the work, as carried out in that City. Dr. Wyndham Parker had kindly agreed that the sessions given up to the actual process should count as work for the County Council and he further agreed that a Nurse of the County Staff should assist.

The District Council was to be responsible for the sending out of circulars and consent forms and for recording results and for the cost of the prophylactic (T.A.M.) used. Unfortunately I was placed on the sick list on the 5th of December and was not allowed to resume work until the 8th of January.

Mr. Firth, the Sanitary Surveyor (and Inspector) came to my house on the 11th of December and a circular was drafted with consent form attached. These were printed and sent out at once and with the consent of the County Medical Officer, Dr. Chalmers Parry who is Deputy County Medical Officer kindly began the work, so that 189 children received their first injection at Powick or Callow End Schools before the end of the year.

This was a very good start and the Council and Mr. Firth are to be congratulated on successfully introducing this valuable Public Health measure in a part of the District.

I have no record of the number of children in the age-groups 1-15 years in the Parish but usually about 181 children attend these two schools.

A few had already been immunized privately or in other areas making it probable that on completion of the process a high proportion will have been rendered immune.

Sanitation.

The Sanitary Inspector's statement gives an outline of the work done during the year and in this report comment is not required.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to all who have helped in the working of the Department.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) M. J. QUIRKE,
Medical Officer of Health.

6th August, 1940.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Year:	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Mid-yearly population	12,550	12,800	12,690	12,610	
Births attributable to District	161	144	136	146	141
Rate per 1,000 of Population	12.8	11.2	10.7	11.5	
Deaths registered in District	215	209	213	206	238
Transferable Deaths:					
(i) Non-residents, registered in District	77	67	89	74	106
(ii) Residents, not registered in District	24	27	38	18	25
Deaths attributable to District:					
(i) Under 1 year of age	11	7	8	6	5
Rate per 1,000 births	68.3	48.6	58.8	41	35.4
(ii) At all ages ..	161	169	162	148	157
Rate per 1,000 of Population	12.8	13.2	12.7	11.7	

TABLE III

Notification of Infectious Disease 1939.

Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 and over.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	33	-	-	-	3	2	14	6	-	6	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria	13	-	-	1	-	1	10	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Enteric Fever (including Para-typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia N.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	2	4a
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals	66	1	1	1	3	3	25	6	1	10	4	6	5	6

a. Includes all deaths from Pneumonia, notifiable or not.

TABLE IV.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Summary of all new cases and of deaths attributable to the area during 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0--1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1--4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5--9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10--14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15--19	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
20--24	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25--34	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
35--44	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
45--54	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55--64	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ..	5	6	-	2	2	3	-	-

TABLE V.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1939.

Infectious Disease.

Visits to houses on account of Notifiable disease	40
Houses disinfected after Notifiable disease ..	48
Other houses disinfected	4

House Drainage.

Drains laid or relaid	(about)	1,400 yds.
Drains tested by water or smoke	(about)	1,400 yds.
Length of obstructed drains dealt with ..		17
" " defective " " " ..		4
Number of privy closets converted	(about)	25
Number of Pail closets converted to Water Closets	(about)	10

Sewerage.

Parishes where sewerage schemes or improvement in sewerage is necessary:-

Powick (Bastonford Area).
Welland.
Newland.
Ripple.
Severn Stoke.

Public Cleansing.

Area served by scheme	Whole District
When collected	Fortnightly
Type of refuse	House Refuse, Trade Refuse above one Bin charged for

Approx.No.of premises refuse collected from 2,600

Approx.amount of refuse collected during year .. ..1,000 tons.

Water Supply.

Parishes supplied by Public supply:

Large portion of Upton-on-Severn parish;

Small portion of Powick parish;

Small portion of Newland parish.

Parishes supplied by Private pipe supply:-

Portion of Madresfield Parish.

Number of Wells repaired and cleansed	20
Number of samples of water taken for analysis	68
Number of samples found unfit for drinking ..	41

Slaughter Houses and Food Inspection.

Number of Slaughter Houses in District	10
(a) Registered	3
(b) Licenced	7
Number of cases of Slaughtering on unlicenced premises	2

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed	512	110	2,650	560
No. inspected ..	439	80	1,796	503
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole carcases condemned	1	0	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	0	2	14
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcases condemned	6	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	0	0	3

Milk.

Number of producers on Register	350
Number of Licences (Milk, Special Designations Order):-	
Tuberculin Tested (Producers)	5
Accredited	21
Pasteurised (Producers)	1
,, (Retailers)	3
Number of Cowsheds Inspected	64

Other Matters.

Offensive Trades	None in District.
Lodging Houses and Houses let in lodgings ,, ,,	,,
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act cases dealt with	2
Nuisance arising from domestic animals	3 cases investigated.

Brief Housing Statistics.

Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, 93.

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 17.

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding heading.) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 76.

Remedy of Defects.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action, 64.

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. - Overcrowding:-

1. (a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year, 27.

   (b) Number of families dwelling therein,27.

   (c) Number of persons dwelling therein, 201.

2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, 0.

3. (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 3.

   (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases, 11.

Rural Workers (Housing) Act, 1926-31.

Number of schemes for reconditioning submitted to County Council during the year, 25.

Number of schemes accepted by County Council during the year, 25.

Number of schemes for reconditioning completed during the year, 27.

(Sgd.) H. E. FIRTH.

Sanitary and Housing Surveyor and Inspector.